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USDA Recognizes Missouri's Food Stamps Program with Three Checks

Osage Beach- Emphasizing the importance of fighting hunger, a top United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) official traveled to Missouri today to present three oversized checks worth \$6,491,982 to commemorate bonuses the Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS) Family Support Division (FSD) has been awarded.

"I am truly inspired by the meaningful work our partners in Missouri do everyday to help us improve the health and wellness of those we work so hard to serve," USDA Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Nancy Montanez Johner said. "Combating hunger means putting healthy, nutritious foods within reach for needy families and individuals. Missouri has done an excellent job, and I'm delighted to be here to present the oversized bonus checks."

USDA awarded Missouri a \$2,506,980 bonus in the best program access category, a \$1,302,504 bonus in the best application processing timeliness rate category and a \$2,682,498 bonus for best payment accuracy rate.

"USDA's \$6.4 million bonus highlights the outstanding work our Family Support Division employees have done in responding to Governor Blunt's call for efficiency in government," DSS Director Deborah Scott said. "FSD employees work tirelessly to ensure that Missourians who qualify for this important nutrition program receive their benefits accurately and quickly. Missourians can be proud of our employees for this achievement."

The Food Stamps Program is administered by USDA. DSS accepts applications and sends out the benefits on behalf of USDA. The federal Food Stamps program is now officially called "SNAP", the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. The name change, passed by Congress, took effect October 1.

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